

12 processing units to generate a set of updated messages as
13 a function of the supplied reordered set of messages.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application S.N. 09/975,331 which issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,633,856. The related application section has been amended to reflect the issuance of the parent patent application

Applicants have canceled original claims 1-49 which correspond to those of the issued parent application and added new claims 50-77 to obtain additional claims directed to the subject matter found in the original patent application. Various new claims, such as claim 50, add features and language not found in some of the claims of the parent application that focus on the fact that various operations are parity check type operations. For example, claim 50, unlike claim 1 of the issued parent 6,633,856, recites "each node processing unit for performing at least one of a **parity check** constraint node processing operation and a **parity check** variable node processing operation".

None of the pending claims are identical to the claims found in the issued parent patent application. However, in the event that the Examiner concludes that a terminal disclaimer is required to place the application in condition for allowance, e.g., because of an obviousness type double patenting issues, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative

by telephone so that such a disclaimer can be promptly filed.

Prompt allowance of this application is respectfully requested

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper (and any accompanying paper(s)) is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patents and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

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